

A FILM BY BERNARD-HENRI LÉVY

# GLORY TO THE HEROES

**IN SELECT THEATERS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8TH**

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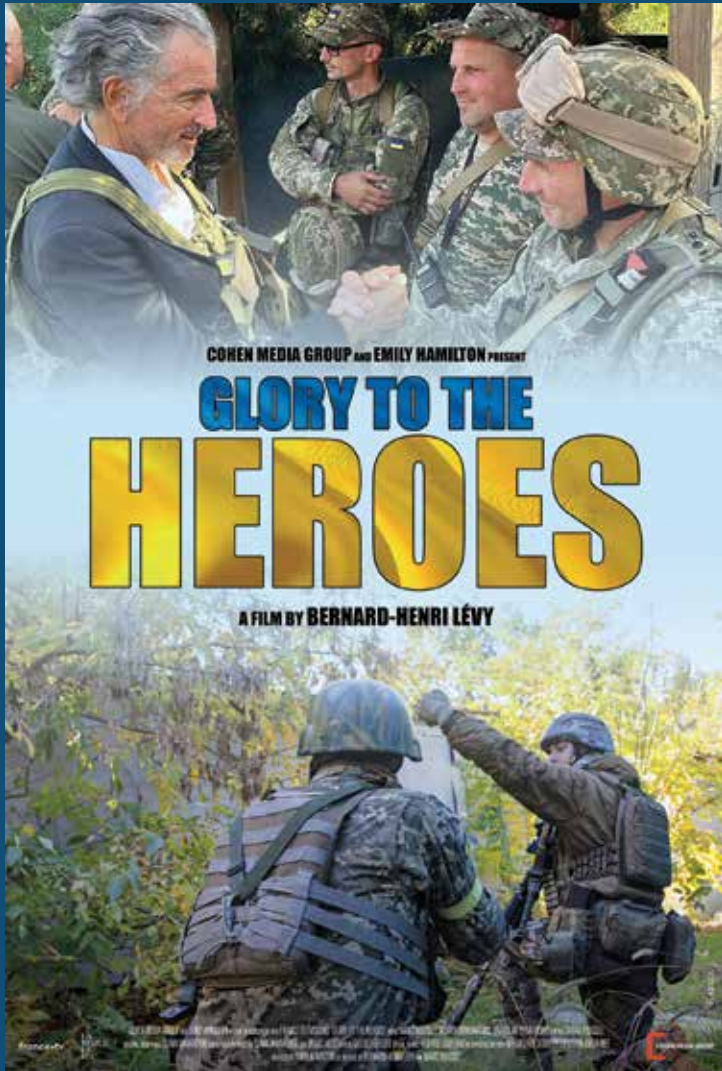


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## SYNOPSIS



In June 2023, Russia destroys the Kakhovka dam in southern Ukraine and commits an unprecedented ecocide. In response, French philosopher and filmmaker Bernard-Henri Lévy returns to Ukraine to capture Ukraine’s deep humanity despite the dire conditions, and a civilian resilience and resistance unlike any other.

In *Glory to the Heroes*, Lévy, along with his co-director Marc Roussel, spends the summer in eastern Ukraine recording for the world a passionate ode to Ukraine’s courage on the battlefield while also depicting the overwhelming sorrow sowed by Russia’s continuous attacks on civilians. On the ground during the Ukrainian counteroffensive, Lévy and Roussel embed with elite forces on the frontline. With unprecedented access, they capture the horrors of war, the hopefulness of the Ukrainian citizens and their optimism in the face of senseless destruction.

Lévy has brought to the world a film that, now more than ever, is a painful reminder that this war is our war and it’s time for the West to urgently give Ukraine everything it needs to win.

## CREDITS

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Directed by     | Bernard-Henri Lévy                                  |
| Co-Directed by  | Marc Roussel  |
| Produced by     | Emily Hamilton                                      |
| Special Advisor | Gilles Hertzog                                      |
| Editing by      | Sarah Roussel                                       |
| Sound by        | Baptiste Palacin, Mario Mondzie                     |
| Genre           | Documentary   |
| US Distributor  | Cohen Media Group                                   |
| Run Time        | 89 minutes  |
| Aspect Ratio    | 1.78  |
| Language        | French, Ukrainian & English, with English subtitles |
| Rating          | NR  |



Russia's war against Ukraine is approaching the two-year mark. For nearly that long, the makers of this film have been fighting news fatigue among the public, cynicism within ministries of foreign affairs, and now the cloak of silence that has fallen over Ukraine.

The filmmakers returned to the front lines earlier this year to share the daily life of the citizen soldiers who, in the trenches of Kherson, Olevsk, and above all Bakhmut, are standing up to the barbaric Russian invasion. They documented war crimes and accompanied the volunteers who go out each night to track drones and shoot them down with machine guns. From June through September 2023, they filmed the women and men who are resisting the savagery unleashed on Europe's border. They met with brave international fighters—Israelis, British, French, and others—who proclaim that this war is their war, a war wherein the fate of Western democracies hangs in the balance.

It is an ode to the heroism of the Ukrainians and a plea for the West to keep the love of liberty and the courage of the truth in its heart.



Marc Roussel, Gilles Hertzog, and others helped me shoot *Why Ukraine?* in March 2022, during the early weeks of the Russian full-scale invasion.

In the fall and winter of the same year, our film *Slava Ukraini* tracked the progress of the first Ukrainian counter-offensive by President Zelensky's valiant army.

Now here is *Glory to the Heroes*, our third film, which we shot in summer 2023. It is a day-by-day account of Ukraine's second counter-offensive. Like its predecessors, it takes the form of a logbook.

It shows Kherson flooded and Bakhmut bombed.

Gutted hospitals and shelled schools.

Children beginning the school year to the sound of rockets and air-raid sirens.

An elderly woman from Lyman who lost everything and responded by planting a vegetable garden along her front walk.

Teenage girls in Yahidne who take us into the school basement where the Russians held them for weeks and where their friends and families suffocated under their eyes.

The grain war and the energy war.

The first images of the Odesa Cathedral destroyed by a missile and of synagogues full of people praying for Ukraine's victory.

Citizen soldiers of all ages and in all conditions prepared in no way for war but who are waging it bravely.

Wounded veterans eager to return to the fight.

The army of drones and that of the trenches.

Russian prisoners filmed with utmost respect for the Geneva Convention, whose accounts speak volumes about the state of demoralization among Putin's troops.

The chief of the Azov Regiment, Denys Prokopenko, filmed just after his return to the frontline where he resumes command of his illustrious unit.

Foreign volunteers, many of them Israelis, who believe that this war is their war and that the stakes are global.

Here's what I think—

From the first day I have believed that the future of the West hangs in the balance here in the ghost cities of Chasiv Yar and Kupiansk.

And that is why my team decided not to let this story go, but rather to throw ourselves into this new adventure.

—Bernard-Henri Lévy



On June 6, 2023, Russia blew up the Kakhovka dam in southern Ukraine, near Kherson, committing ecocide on a grand scale.

At the time Ukraine was launching a major new counteroffensive on all fronts, an operation still underway as we were wrapping up this film.

It was also the time—mid-June 2023—when author and documentary filmmaker Bernard-Henri Lévy returned to Ukraine, where he remained with co-director Marc Roussel for most of the summer.

Accompanied by the Ukrainian military to the front lines in Bakhmut and other zones, Lévy and Roussel have turned their experience into a third film, *Glory to the Heroes*, which builds

on their earlier efforts, *Why Ukraine* (2022) and *Slava Ukraini* (2022–23). The new film is a war documentary shot at the edge of the battlefield and deep into the frontlines.

But more than that it is an ode to the courage of Ukraine, a hymn to its civilian and military heroes, and an appeal for increased aid from the West, which seems to be trying, as Lévy says in his narration, to calculate “the precise doses of aid needed not to lose but also not to win.”

Determinedly committed, the film ends with these words: “No compromise, no delay. Guns and planes to win the war and the peace.”

—Emily Hamilton



Bernard-Henri Lévy is a French philosopher, filmmaker, activist and the author of over 45 books and 8 films.

Born in 1948, Lévy was one of the pioneers of the “New Philosophers” movement and has been one of the West’s foremost intellectuals, defending democracy and humanism against totalitarianism and fascism. Some examples include his most recent book: *The Will to See: Dispatches from a World of Misery and Hope* (2021), *The Virus in the Age of Madness* (2020), *The Empire and the Five Kings* (2019) and *American Vertigo, Traveling America in the Footsteps of Tocqueville* (2005). He followed the trail of the murdered Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl in Pakistan for his book *Who Killed Daniel Pearl?* (2003).

Lévy’s work as an intellectual, writer and filmmaker is uniquely intertwined with humanitarian activism.

In June 1992, Lévy convinced French President François Mitterrand to make his surprise-journey to Sarajevo to stand in support with the Bosnians. For four years, Lévy pushed for the West to intervene and stop the ethnic cleansing and atrocities committed by the Serbs. He made two films on the war in Bosnia: *A Day in the Death of Sarajevo* and *Bosnia!*

In the wake of the war against the Taliban, in 2002, Lévy was appointed by French President Jacques Chirac as Special Envoy to Afghanistan. His findings resulted in the French book, *Reports to the French President and Prime Minister on France’s Participation in the Reconstruction of Afghanistan* (2002). It was published for the first time in English in July 2021 with a foreword by General David Petraeus.



Lévy was instrumental in the intervention by Presidents Nicolas Sarkozy and Barack Obama in order to protect the civilian population in Libya against dictator Moammar Gaddafi and published a first-hand account of his role in this war in the form of a writer's journal (*La Guerre sans l'aimer*, 2012) and *The Oath of Tobruk* (Official Selection Festival de Cannes 2012).

Since 2015, Lévy has been very involved on the side of the Kurds, in the fight against ISIS. His documentary film, *Peshmerga*, premiered as Official Selection of the Cannes Film Festival and followed his months embedded with the Kurdish forces traveling the 450 km front line against the jihadists. In 2016, Lévy was embedded with the Kurdish and Iraqi forces liberating Mosul. Out of this unique experience, came another film, *The Battle of Mosul*, which is the only first-hand account of the fall of the Caliphate's capital.

His 2021 film, *The Will to See*, was released nationwide in the US and followed his travels during the pandemic year when he traveled to Nigeria, Iraqi and Syrian Kurdistan, Ukraine, Somalia, Lesbos' refugee camps, Bangladesh, Libya and Afghanistan to chronicle the misery and suffering.

Since the full-scale invasion on February 24, and since the actual start of this long war in 2014, Bernard-Henri Lévy has been traveling to Ukraine to stand with the Ukrainian people. He addressed hundreds of thousands on the Maidan in 2014, represented the President of France for Babi Yar commemorations, met Zelensky before he became President, embedded with troops in 2020 and completed a first one hour-long TV documentary, called *Why Ukraine* in spring 2022. This film was screened at the United Nations in October 2022 under the auspices of the French and Ukrainian missions to the UN. His new film, *Slava Ukraini*, will be released nationwide in the US on May 5, 2023.

Lévy writes for numerous international publications including The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, The New York Times, Tablet Magazine, Foreign Policy, Time Magazine, Suddeutsche Zeitung, Die Welt, La Repubblica, El Español, Espresso, Paris-Match, Israel Hayom, Haaretz and other European outlets.